

W. A. Murray
May 27, 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GORDON GRAY

SUBJECT: Jackson Committee Hearings

At the beginning of the Committee hearing yesterday morning, at which Mr. George F. Kennan testified, Senator Jackson announced that both the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Defense had accepted invitations to appear before the Committee.

I later ascertained that Senator Jackson had telephoned Mr. Harter, that the latter had indicated a willingness to appear, but that the setting of an exact date was postponed until next week.

Secretary Gates, I am told, has consented to appear before the Committee on June 13.

Meanwhile, the Committee has invited not the Director of the Bureau of the Budget but the Deputy Director, Elmer Staats, to testify and the date of June 13 has been agreed upon for his appearance.

At the hearing yesterday Mr. Kennan testified on a wide range of subjects. One of the principal points he made was that there should be one senior official in the executive branch to act as the President's principal executive agent for all matters relating to national security. This individual should be the Secretary of State whose responsibilities would include not only foreign affairs but military matters as well. In support of this proposal, Mr. Kennan suggested that there was a certain historical justification in the title "Secretary of State" itself which suggests that the office is not limited to the conduct of foreign affairs and he pointed out that the Secretary of State is the keeper of the Great Seal of the United States.

Mr. Kennan also advocated the creation of an independent NSC staff, divorced from departmental responsibilities and reporting directly to the President. The purpose of such a staff would be to generate new ideas in the national security field.

In the executive session held in the afternoon, some time was devoted to a discussion of NSC organization. However, the greater part of the afternoon was spent in a discussion of the U-2 incident. Inasmuch as neither the Committee nor Mr. Kennan was responsibly informed about the matter, a wide range of speculation and conjecture was indulged in by both sides.

CHARLES A. HASKINS

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

60-4355

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Bob:

The attached memoranda on Executive Sessions of the Jackson Committee this week may be of interest.

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CHARLES A. HASKINS

To John Warner